



## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

September 17, 2004

BILL NELSON  
FLORIDA

The Honorable Michael D. Brown  
Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness and Response  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C St, SW  
Washington, District of Columbia 20472

Dear Secretary Brown:

Thank you for the fine work you and your staff have done in Florida. We Floridians know that your efforts are essential to help us cope and recover from Hurricanes Charley and Frances.

An issue has come to my attention that needs your assistance. It is my understanding that cities and counties in Florida have been informed they will not be reimbursed for the costs of removing debris from communities with private roads. The standard procedure in Florida for communities with private roads for debris removal is to place debris at the curbside of the nearest public roadway. With the massive amount of damage caused by Charley and Frances, placing debris from entire neighborhoods on a public roadway will create logistical issues and safety concerns to drivers and pedestrians. For these reasons, many communities with private roads believe the massive amounts of debris constitute a public health and safety issue. It is my understanding that FEMA will compensate local governments for removing debris from private land if it is deemed an issue of public health and safety. I would ask that you look into designating the debris in communities with private roads a public health hazard.

I look forward to your immediate response. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Bill Nelson*